



Child Abuse Statistics: Michigan & National

Michigan¹ (FY2021)**

- This data represents the number of Child Protective Services investigations for the past ten years. They are: 2011: 83,627; 2012: 91,159; 2013: 87,980; 2014: 80,117; 2015: 92,729; 2016: 90,356; 2017: 90,760; 2018: 100,123; 2019: 99,788 (95,868 assigned for investigation and 3,900 accepted and linked investigations); 2020: 71,991 (70,242 assigned for investigation and 1,749 accepted and linked investigations); 2021: 66,905 (65,178 assigned for investigation and 1,217 accepted and linked investigations).
- In FY2021, 24% of investigations resulted in evidence of abuse or neglect.¹
- Of all disposed investigations in FY2021, a total of 15,998 complaints were confirmed representing 24,491 identified victims.¹
- 32% of victims were under the age of four.¹
- In approximately 74 percent of all cases, the perpetrator was the parent (biological, adoptive, putative or step-parent).¹
- Since the first year that the Five Category Disposition data became available (FY2002), the distribution of investigation dispositions has remained consistent. Twenty-two to twenty-seven percent are category I, II, or III (confirmed - preponderance of evidence), and 72 to 78 percent are category IV or V (no preponderance of evidence). In FY2021, those percentages were 24 and 76, respectively.¹
- In a study by Caldwell & Noor (2005), costs of child abuse in Michigan were estimated at \$1,827,694,855. The costs of prevention are a fraction of the costs of abuse. Cost savings ranged from 96% to 98% depending on the prevention model tested.²

Nationally: (FY2020)³

- An estimated 656,000 children were victims of maltreatment.
- An estimated 3.99 million CPS referrals were received resulting in approximately 3.48 million investigations or assessments.
- An estimated 1,840 in 2019 (1,770 children in 2018) died from abuse or neglect.
- In 2019, 74.9 percent of victims experienced neglect (including medical neglect), 17.5 percent were physically abused, 9.3 percent were sexually abused, and 6.8 percent of victims experienced various forms of psychological maltreatment, such as threatened abuse, parent's drug/alcohol abuse, etc. A total of 15.5 percent experienced multiple forms of abuse and neglect. Of note, 21 states reported 439 cases of child trafficking or .1 percent.
- During 2019, approximately 77.5 percent of the child abuse and neglect perpetrators were parent(s), and 22.5 percent were non-parents.
- The consequences of child abuse cost the country at least \$2 trillion annually according to the Center for Disease Control from a 2015 study. The CDC determined that each child fatality represents a \$16.6 million cost to the US economy. In 2015, 1,670 children died due to abuse and neglect in the US alone.
- Each case of non-fatal child maltreatment was estimated to cost the economy \$830,928 in 2015 currency.⁴

¹ MI Department of Health and Human Services' "Children's Protective Services 2021." Please see the report (included in the CAP Month Toolkit) for additional statewide and historical data.

² Caldwell, R. & Noor, I. (2005). "The Costs of Child Abuse vs. Child Abuse Prevention: A Multi-year Follow-up in Michigan."

³ US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Families and Children 2018 Report

⁴ Center for Disease Control (2015)